

that matter? Of course it matters, because those people who come here spend around about \$3,000 in businesses and retail stores around here. Students trying to get home need to have paperwork processed in our Embassies overseas, and that cannot be done. Foreign exchange students want to come here to study. They cannot do that.

One Member of this body suggests that no one even noticed the shutdown and we ought to keep the Government partially closed. I say that is foolish. Whoever said that has not been out of the beltway long enough. Say that, that the Government shutdown does not mean anything, to Meals on Wheels. What is Meals on Wheels? Meals on Wheels is people who are shut-in's, and they are allowed to stay at their homes as a result of Meals on Wheels. If Meals on Wheels is shut down, these people are going to have to go into rest homes, extended care facilities, and cost the taxpayers even more. Meals on Wheels allows people their independence, their ability to stay at home. But for Meals on Wheels, our rest homes, our convalescent centers, our extended care facilities would be burdened even more than they are.

For someone who says we ought to keep it shut down, what about our Superfund cleanup sites? We have now Superfund cleanup sites that are being cleaned up. We just had a big celebration because the final Love Canal payment was made. We have 30 Superfund cleanup sites that are going to be shut down in the next 24 hours; shut down. That not only involves stopping the cleanup, it costs a lot more money to get them cranked up again. So people do care if the Government is shut down. They care about the thousands and thousands of people who cannot go to our national parks. They cannot go fishing, and small retail merchants at entrances to these parks are screaming for help. They depend on these national parks to earn a livelihood.

This shutdown has nothing to do with agreeing to a balanced budget. We could go back to the process of the appropriations bills which were not passed. We could pass blame on why they were not passed. The fact of the matter is they were not passed, and there is no reasonable, just cause for this Government shutdown and not allowing people to go to work. In fact, we are paying them anyway.

Agreeing to a balanced budget plan and allowing the Government to operate are two entirely separate issues. There is simply no linkage. There should be no linkage. Attempts to make one solely contingent upon the other is really a form of legislative terrorism. The Federal workers are being used as negotiating chips. In order for one side to be able to declare unconditional victory, these people are being used as pawns. This simply is not right. They are not part of the best equation leading to a balanced budget, and it ought not to stop them from going back to work.

What is the current impact of the shutdown?

Six hundred thousand elderly Americans may lose their Meals on Wheels. That is a large number of people.

States have lost \$74 million in grants for child protection programs. Child protection programs, this is not welfare. These moneys are used to deal with more than 2½ million cases of child maltreatment each year.

Eleven States have exhausted their funding for unemployment insurance.

The Federal Housing Administration is unable to process 2,500 home loans and refinancing each day of the shutdown. There are 2,500 each day.

More than 1,000 workplace safety complaints have gone unanswered. We receive an average of about 240 calls each day to EPA's hotline for drinking water contamination information. We have people who are complaining that their water is contaminated. These are calls going unanswered.

Five other hotlines which receive thousands of calls each month are shut down, depriving the public of potentially critical information on pesticides, toxic substances, asbestos in schools, and other public health information.

Three hundred and eighty-three thousand people each day are being denied access to our national parks—almost 400,000 people a day. And some say it does not matter?

As Senator DOLE said yesterday—enough is enough. It is time to end this folly and stand up to this bully. A few jabs and a left hook would end them real quick.

This, Mr. President, should end immediately. The bully should be put down, and put down quickly.

Mr. WARNER addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia is recognized.

THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, before the distinguished Senator departs the floor, I would like to say how much I personally appreciate his remarks regarding the Republican leader, Mr. DOLE. I was with Mr. DOLE throughout the meeting of 2½ hours yesterday, along with the Speaker, Mr. GINGRICH, Senator DOMENICI, House Budget Chairman KASICH, House Majority Leader DICK ARMEY, and others. In my judgment, he has been a pillar of strength throughout.

I also extend my remarks to the distinguished Democrat leader who has worked with Senator DOLE here in the last 48 hours, and many Members on both sides.

I think the Senate should stand with great pride as to how it has met this tragic shutdown in the Federal Government and the ripple effect throughout the private sector, so that it just is not the Government employees.

I will also address other matters from my constituents here momentarily. But I wish to thank the Senator

from Nevada for his remarks about our distinguished leader.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, this morning in my office Congressman WOLF, Congressman DAVIS, and Congresswoman MORELLA joined—and we now have met several times a day—to try to provide our respective leadership here in the Senate and in the House, together with our colleagues from Maryland.

I note the presence of the junior Senator from Maryland on the floor, as well as yesterday the senior Senator from Maryland, and Senator ROTH also.

We worked here as a group because the greater metropolitan area of Washington is probably the most severely affected as a consequence of this Government shutdown. Not only is there a large number of employees—perhaps as high as a half million—who are working at their jobs without pay, but there are some 260,000 to 280,000 who are furloughed and not able to report to their offices for various reasons.

I also wish to mention that at 1 o'clock, and I shall be departing shortly to join Members of Congress, Congressman DAVIS, Congressman FRANK WOLF, and Congresswoman CONNIE MORELLA, and others, to meet with the various members of the Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund. This is under the leadership of Jerry Shaw, a nationally known individual with Federal employees, currently the counsel for the Senior Executive Association.

We are coming together, the Members of Congress, to encourage others—those who can—who will pledge some personal financial support for Federal employees receiving short paychecks. This is becoming a crisis.

I commend the Federal Employee Education Assistance Fund for doing this. This is a private member of the Combined Federal Campaign assisting Federal employees in dire need during the shutdown with interest-free loans for rent, mortgage, utilities, and food. The charity is in danger of running out of funds without additional contributions.

I am happy to join with others to try to make our contributions to help them.

Attending this 1 o'clock meeting will be representatives from the Federal employee organizations represented on the board of directors. Among them include the Senior Executive Association, the National Treasury Employees Union, the Federal Managers Association, the National Federation of Federal Employees, and the Social Security Managers Association.

THE BUDGET

Mr. WARNER. Now, Mr. President, I would like to make reference again to the problems here. They are all well

known to Members of the Senate, particularly those of us who have been here the last few days as the Senate and the House began to resume activities.

We are still hopefully waiting for the President's budget message showing us the balanced budget. We are at an impasse because we do not have an agreed-upon budget, but a 7-year balanced budget with the Congressional Budget Office numbers seems to be agreed upon by both the President and the leadership of Congress. So I am hopeful that will be forthcoming.

I think the American people are looking to the Congress now for leadership. I again commend the leadership of the Senate and many others who are participating.

I hope—and I say this with a long pause—but I hope that the same leadership can come from the Speaker of the House and others to realize today the need to pass a continuing resolution for these employees governmentwide. In addition, we have a crisis here in the Nation's Capital, the District of Columbia. That also requires a continuing resolution which I hope will be acted upon favorably today.

But the Federal Managers Association newsletter which arrived in the Senate offices this morning graphically portrays the ripple effect of this problem. I am reading from a paragraph of that letter.

Social Security Administration: On a normal day the SSA's 1-800 telephone number receives about 250,000 calls. Today, the SSA expects to receive 2 million calls.

I repeat, Mr. President: 2 million calls.

Managing this task is that volunteer group of Federal employees who are coming to work without pay.

It is interesting, but tragic to note, that a number of the managers, the senior executives of the Social Security Administration, and indeed the Veterans' Administration, are making loans from their own budgets to some of the lower paid employees to enable them just to meet transportation costs to come in, and to work with this volunteer group.

Some of the lower paid Social Security Administration workers are telling their managers they can no longer afford transportation costs to get to work to answer the 2 million calls.

I wish to commend the can do spirit that is prevailing throughout the Federal Government to try to provide these services to needy people.

Back to the Veterans' Administration.

They are caring for those who serve this Nation in the time of our greatest need. And now the managers again are working with the lower paid employees, the local banks, guaranteeing loans to secure the needed funds just to get these employees over this period which I hope will come to a conclusion today. And from my own State the switchboard is off the hook. We are there in my office together with other

Senate offices taking these calls. I wish to pay special tribute to those in my office, Anna and Patty and Todd and Doreen, all of whom have been by the phones throughout the day and well into the evening to take calls such as the following:

My name is Brian Rothermel, a heart transplant recipient. I am a member of a 7-person team from the United States scheduled to go to France to participate in the "2nd Winter World Heart Transplant Games" along with participants from 38 other countries. I have been unable to get my passport due to the Government shutdown. My flight is to leave out of New York on a chartered trip to France on January 5. Please give me help.

From the Handicapped Placement Service—this is a volunteer organization which helps handicapped persons obtain jobs and work in the Federal Government—dated December 28:

DEAR SENATOR: Many of our employees are being hammered by the budget impasse. Because our employees are contract staff rather than Federal employees, they received no wages during the last furlough. The impact from that stoppage was over \$11,000 in wages lost to our employees. As you know, over 80 percent of our employees are people with disabilities and most cannot afford lost wages.

This story goes on and on, Mr. President. I ask unanimous consent that I may have printed in today's RECORD other communications from people seeking help from my office as well as other Senate offices.

There being no objection, the letters were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

FAIRFAX OPPORTUNITIES UNLIMITED,
December 28, 1995.

Hon. JOHN W. WARNER,
Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR WARNER: Many of our employees are being hammered by the budget impasse. Because our employees are contract staff rather than Federal employees, they received no wages during the last furlough. The impact from that stoppage was over \$11,000 in wages to our employees.

As you know, over 80% of our employees are people with disabilities and most cannot afford to lose wages. They are not paid at the same level of pay and benefits as Federal employees, and so the impact is very real and significant. Our organization, as a non-profit, is obviously not in a position to be able to protect people financially as the impasse drags on.

We currently have people out of work at EPA, FBI, Commerce, and GSA and we received notification yesterday that 10 people at a second EPA site are being sent home today. The impact for all of these folks is potentially far greater than the first shutdown (which affected more people but was resolved relatively quickly).

I know that you and other members of our Northern Virginia delegation have been very active in protecting the interests of our local Federal employees. If there is any way that contractor staff, most of whom are at greater financial risk because of wage and benefit differentials, can be protected in this round of reviews, please help make that happen. In any case, anything that can help speed resolution of the current differences will help minimize the significant financial losses that our employees are in the midst of trying to cope with.

Thanks so much and a happy new year!

Sincerely,

JANET SAMUELSON,
President.

January 2, 1996.

DEAR SENATOR WARNER: We are two federal employees who believe in the Republican values of individual responsibility, family responsibility, and service to country. Accordingly, one and five years ago respectively, we left lucrative private employment to return to federal service. We have a home, just completed putting one daughter through college, and now have two attending college. This week a mortgage and two sets of tuition, room and board, and textbook bills had to be paid. In short, we gladly go in each weekday to work hard in federal service, then return each night to family life with its rewards, responsibilities and financial obligations.

In the private sector it was a given that one's employment and financial welfare were directly related to performance and output: work hard and produce, and you are rewarded. In the federal workforce, however, we are reliant on the President and Congress for our employment and financial compensation. We depend on you and your colleagues. Consequently, we ask you to stop the shutdown and allow us to go back to work with pay.

We believe a balanced budget is important for the country, but we believe reasonable people can accomplish this and allow the government to work at the same time. In the next pay period, we will embark on serious financial problems through no fault of our own. We hold the President and Congress responsible and we ask you to put us back to work now. Anything else will undoubtedly result in an anti-incumbent bias within the federal workforce, regardless of past party affiliation.

VERN AND MARY ANN BETTENCOURT,
Burke, VA.

YORKTOWN, VA, December 29, 1995.

DEAR SENATOR WARNER: I am writing you to express my concern with what is happening or not happening in the Congress concerning passage of the federal budget. First, let me state that I agree with trying to balance our budget. It has gone for too many years in the red and something should have been done years ago! Get rid of unnecessary costs, and there appear to be many, but keep what is necessary to keep our country the great nation it has become.

Next, I'll let you know that I have been employed for twenty years by the federal government as a medical technologist either with the Department of Defense or currently with the Veterans Administration. I have always been proud to serve our military and now our veterans. However, it is a disgrace to our country the behavior of those in power in Congress. It has been difficult working under the conditions you expect us to work under, not knowing whether there is money to order necessary supplies to cover testing for our veterans. Now, I have learned that we will not be paid for one of the weeks we have already worked!! I will continue to work until it is necessary because of financial constraints to seek employment elsewhere. I was not furloughed, I worked. The ones who were furloughed should be allowed to take their leave, not cost the government more money by being granted authorized absence as occurred previously. This nonsense occurring in Congress is supposedly for my best interests! I wish you could witness the havoc occurring in the time keeping departments and payroll at the Veterans Administration, not to mention other federal agencies. How many millions of dollars are being wasted because of furloughs and shut downs?

I urge you and other Congressmen to settle this dispute about our budget. Do what is best for our country, pass a balanced budget, but do it promptly!

Sincerely,

CECELIA J. GENCE.

ALEXANDRIA, VA.

My name is Brian Rothermel, a heart transplant recipient. I am a member on a seven person team from the U.S. going to France to participate in the "2nd Winter World Transplant Games" along with participants from 38 other countries.

I have been unable to get my passport due to the Government shutdown. My flight is to leave out of New York on a chartered trip to Pro-Loup, France, on January 5, 1996. I have been actively raising money through donations from companies, organizations and individuals to help defray the cost of the trip.

The National Kidney Foundation out of New York is the U.S./organizer of the event and all of the money raised goes to them as a tax deduction.

I am a key member on the team and will be severely devastated if I am unable to go. Please help me in my "quest for gold" and let me get my passport. Thank you for any assistance or consideration you can give me.

BRIAN ROTHERMEL,

Mr. WARNER. I thank the Chair. I close by once again commending the leadership in the Senate and other Members who are actively working today and tomorrow and right on into this week to try to resolve this tragic impasse.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland is recognized.

NATIONAL DISGRACE

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I, too, am pleased that the Senate passed a continued funding resolution which puts the Federal Government back to work and puts money into pay stubs for all Federal employees. I commend the Republican leader for doing that, and I am proud of the fact that the Democratic leader has also been offering those continuing resolutions. I am relieved that we have finally taken positive action to put an end to this national disgrace and the shameful way we have treated our Federal employees.

I thank everyone who worked on this continuing resolution that has passed, but I am here to say that we need more than a continuing resolution. We also need to repair the damage that has been done.

Mr. President, I represent a shutdown State, as does the Senator from Virginia. What does a shutdown State mean? Of the hundreds of thousands of Federal employees that are furloughed, many of them are in the State of Maryland. I represent flagship agencies. What are those flagship agencies? One is the National Institutes of Health, 13,000 people working around the clock to find the cure and containment of disease and they are furloughed. I represent the national space agency at Goddard, the Social Security agency, the responsibility of which is to respond to the needs of the elderly in

terms of getting out their Social Security benefits; the health care finance agency, the National Institute of Standards. I could go on and on.

I can tell you as I have been out meeting with them, visiting with them, talking with them, they know they are out of work, they are out of money, and they are out of patience. For those workers who have been declared essential, what the American taxpayer should know is that although someone has been declared essential does not mean they are getting paid.

What are examples of the essential employees? Those are FBI agents, the DEA agents, the drug enforcement agents. This morning I met with the FBI team in the Baltimore area. They are on the job. The drug dealers are getting paid. Burglars are getting theirs, the bank robbers. But the very people we rely upon to track down the criminals in the United States of America are not getting paid. They are there. They are working. They have every right to be paid.

I was at the VA hospital in Baltimore this morning, speaking to the nurses, the physical therapists, the physicians, the support team. They are there making sure that every veteran is cared for. They are giving their time and their life's blood, but those doctors, those nurses, are not being paid.

Mr. President, that is a national disgrace. When you talk to constituents as I have, they say to me: Why is it that we can have peace talks for Bosnia and get it done? Why is it that we can have Mideast peace talks and get it done? But why is it we cannot have budget peace talks and get it done?

I do not know. Maybe we have to take the entire Republican and Democratic leadership including the President and all of us and go down the Wye River and try to get this settled. We need to be very serious about this.

Yesterday, when I was at the Social Security Administration, I spoke with the workers there. They want to work, they want to earn their pay, and they want to pay their bills. And you know what. They are absolutely worried. They are worried about how they can meet their responsibilities while they are trying to answer the phone calls and do the other work that Social Security requires.

This morning, when I met with those FBI agents and met with the nurses at the Social Security, I heard incredible talk, stories. At the VA hospital, I talked with a nurse who has come into the job without fail to save the lives of veterans and they themselves have no money for their mortgage. They have no money for their car payment. They have no money for their child care. They worked Christmas Day. They worked New Year's Day. Many of them worked the night shift and therefore are paid a premium for that. They are also prohibited from getting any type of second job because they are essential employees. How can we turn our backs on these men and women?

They have given me letters that they want to go into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD talking about how they continue to work and continue to care for the sick and care for the dying and they want to know who is going to care for them.

I have a letter from one Federal employee who talks about how, while they have no pay, they are raising money for those who are also out of money. I have another letter from a nurse who has dedicated her life to the sick. I ask unanimous consent that these letters be printed in the RECORD, because I want everyone to know the consequences of this.

There being no objection, the letters were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

BALTIMORE, MD.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,

Speaker of the House of Representatives, House of Representatives, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER, I am a Federal employee at the Baltimore VA Medical Center, the wife of also another loyal Federal employee who works for Ft. Howard VAMC. Together we support 2 children, and assist my elderly mother. Our mortgage alone is greater than ½ our pay. It seems clear to me that no one serves to profit from this political struggle over the budget. Remember you cannot have everything, so start by prioritizing the most valued needs for the good of everyone. I struggle with the thought that Congress and our President no longer care about what happens to us, and that the decisions to allow other Federal employees to be punished for your inability to perform your job, makes me cringe with fear. As for my case, the risk of losing my home and those things I have worked hard for is incomprehensible when you in the midst of disaster took a vacation. It makes me worry that if our country was threatened by other beings, would you hinder and jeopardize our existence. What you are doing is WRONG . . . It's wrong morally and ethically and you, the entire Congress and President should know that team work is what built our country. Divided you will be conquered, United you will build the new generation, much stronger and able to lead us through more challenging endeavors.

There has been no negative outcomes directly affecting you, and why??? Have you created a Them and Us? It is time to earn your keep? Help me, my family and make the RIGHT choices. You were selected for your expertise and administrative skills to manage this task. As we approach the feast of the Three Wise Men, let God send the Holy Spirit to make wise decisions now.

I came to work for the Federal Gov't 6 years ago searching for job security, a little premature. I think the Gov't strategies and methods have to move toward rebuilding a model that meets the needs of this day and age. If you want a budget passed, make it contingent on the salaries of those who must decide this process. It appears that the rules to this game are mixed up and with every passing day, you leave Federal workers with the thought that they are not important. The long term effect is a work force that has little motivation and a lot of anger and resentment. Trying to remotivate staff AIN'T EASY.

I guess I personally want you to hear how it feels to be one of the Federal employees. It's like the story "JUNGLE BOOK" when the little boy raised by animals in the jungle walks into a room filled with the stuffed